

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 999

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend W.S. Holland for his contributions to the world of music.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has long been known throughout the world for its rich music heritage; from the hills of East Tennessee through Music City U.S.A. to the banks of the Mississippi, the talented musicians of this State have earned a reputation that is unsurpassed in the history of American music; and

WHEREAS, one such legendary musical talent is W.S. Holland, whose musical career began in 1954 at the legendary Sun Records in Memphis, when he sat as a drummer; and

WHEREAS, the esteemed Mr. Holland played on all of Carl Perkins's Sun releases, including the original *Blue Suede Shoes*, which was the first record to go to number one on all three charts; and

WHEREAS, on December 4, 1956, W.S. Holland played the drums on a recording made by legendary artists Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Johnny Cash; that recording, which was never intended for release, has since been dubbed as *The Million Dollar Quartet*; and

WHEREAS, in the mid-to late-1950s, W.S. Holland toured extensively with Carl Perkins and other Sun artists, including Mr. Presley, Mr. Lewis, Roy Orbison, and Mr. Cash; and

WHEREAS, he was the first drummer to play a full set of drums on the Grand Ole Opry; and

WHEREAS, a musician with incredible talents, Mr. Holland joined Johnny Cash in 1960 and played on many of Mr. Cash's biggest hits, including *Folsom Prison Blues*, *I Walk the Line*, and *Ring of Fire*; and

WHEREAS, the only drummer to work for Mr. Cash, W.S. Holland traveled world-wide with the Johnny Cash Show, performing at such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall, the

London Palladium, and Madison Square Garden and for distinguished audiences, including four U.S. Presidents; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Holland was responsible for Carl Mann, Rayburn Anthony, and Little David Wilkins securing record deals with Sun Records Proprietor Sam Phillips and he played on their first releases, *Mona Lisa* and *Alice Blue Gown*; he also played on the Statler Brothers's *Flowers on the Wall*, in Marty Stuart's *Hillbilly Rock* video, and on Bob Dylan's *Nashville Skyline* album; and

WHEREAS, nicknamed "Father of the Drums" by Johnny Cash, W.S. Holland remained with Mr. Cash as a drummer and road manager until 1997; and

WHEREAS, in a fitting recognition of his remarkable achievements, Mr. Holland was inducted into the Rockabilly Hall of Fame in 2004 and awarded the International Rockabilly Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award, naming him "The Heartbeat of Mega Hits for Fifty Years"; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, he reunited with Bob Wootton to record the *We Still Miss Someone* album, featuring many Johnny Cash hits as well as original material and his drum solo, "Drum Time"; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is recognized throughout the world as the home of country music, and the cities of this great State resound with the rich and colorful sound of the truly American music, a sound to which W.S. Holland has added his own distinct talents; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we recognize his illustrious career which has spanned more than fifty years, and the extraordinary talents of one of Tennessee's most gifted drummers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor W.S. Holland on his legendary musical talent as a drummer and entertainer, commend him on his singular contributions to the music industry, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

